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Dr. William H. Pancoast.

(From painting in Library of Jefferson Medical College. By B. Uhle, 1886.)

CHAPTER XII.

WILLIAM H. PANCOAST—ROGERS—SAMUEL W. GROSS—PARVIN.



IN 1862 William H. Pancoast, less than thirty years old, returned from his studies abroad, and was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in this school of medicine. This appointment was the first addition to the regular teaching force, and it was a source of gratification to Dr. Dunglison, the Dean, when arranging "matter" for the announcement of the session of 1863-64, that the name of "William H. Pancoast, Demonstrator of Anatomy," added to the customary list of Trustees and Professors, just filled one page of that annual publication. But the name of the younger Pancoast was added for another purpose than the mere "filling up" of a page; he himself was needed as an assistant to his father, and to the school, for just then there was much important work devolving upon the chairs of anatomy and surgery. At the time, Jefferson was training surgeons for service in the union army, and the assistance of demonstrators was required to prepare them properly for field and hospital duty.

William H. Pancoast was born in Philadelphia, October 16, 1835. At the age of eighteen he was graduated from Haverford with the degree of B. A. His master's degree was subsequently conferred by the same college. His preceptor in medical studies was his father, Joseph Pancoast. In connection with his studies, William took the regular Jefferson course, and was graduated M. D., in 1856. He then went abroad and devoted two and a half years more to study in the great hospitals of London, Edinburgh, Paris, Vienna, and Berlin.

"While in Paris," says one of his biographers, Dr. Pancoast "was a special student with, and often the assistant of, the distinguished French surgeon Civiale, who wished him to settle in Paris as his assistant;" but this

offer he respectfully declined. He returned to the United States and began practice in Philadelphia, devoting himself chiefly to surgery, and also to private teaching, especially of anatomy. He was thus engaged, in 1862, when the Jefferson Faculty called him to fill the new appointment of demonstrator. In 1874 he succeeded to the chair of Anatomy in Jefferson, and was a member of its Faculty until 1885, when he resigned his professorship. At the time, he contemplated an extended European tour, but was persuaded to change his plans and accept the chair of General Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy and Clinical Anatomy in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia.

Dr. Pancoast died in January, 1897. He was prominent in professional circles outside the class-room and the clinic, and held a membership in many of the great medical societies of the United States. He was vice-president of the American Medical Association in 1884, and took an active interest in the work of national, state, and local medical societies.

In the fifty-third annual announcement the Faculty of Jefferson caused this paragraph to be inserted: "The Board of Trustees has appointed to the vacant chair of Medical Chemistry and Toxicology, Professor Robert E. Rogers, for twenty-five years Professor of Chemistry in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and well known as an eminent chemist and able lecturer and teacher. The Faculty feel that they have reason to congratulate the friends of the school upon this accession of strength."

Professor Rogers was a native of Baltimore, born in 1813. He was early an orphan, and his education and the shaping of his young life devolved upon his elder brother, who became a Professor in William and Mary College, later in the University of Virginia, and who at one time was Director of the Geological Survey of Virginia. Robert was educated at William and Mary, and after an attempt at civil engineering with indifferent success, he took up the study of medicine, which was more congenial to his tastes than the pursuit originally intended for him. His preceptor in medicine

was Hare; the University was his alma mater; his degree of M. D. was conferred in 1836; and his thesis was honored with publication in the "American Journal of Medical Sciences."

Almost from the beginning of his career, Dr. Rogers was in some prominent manner identified with the work of medical education. In 1841 he began to deliver lectures on chemistry in the University of Virginia, and in the next year he succeeded to the chair of Chemistry and Materia Medica in that institution. In 1852 he was called to the same chair in the University of Pennsylvania, successor to his brother, Dr. John B. Rogers. Here he gained prominence in scientific circles, and also established a wide reputation as a medico-legal expert in toxicology. His mind was "marvelously practical, inventive, many-sided, and rich in resources." In 1862 he was appointed Acting Assistant Surgeon and assigned to duty in the large Military Hospital in West Philadelphia. While there he had the misfortune to lose one hand, the result of an accident. In 1864 he was appointed, with an associate chemist, to investigate the processes of refining silver at the mint in Philadelphia, and the result of his work was so effective as to lead to extensive reforms in the refining processes in that city, in San Francisco, and in the government's assay office in New York.

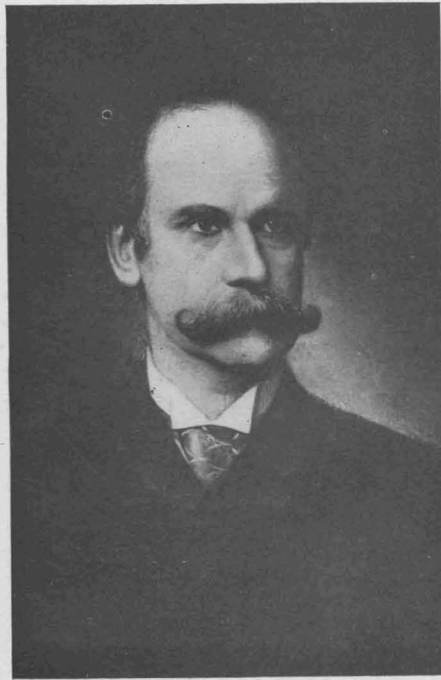
The sweeping changes in the University curriculum and methods in 1877 were distasteful to Professor Rogers, as well as to several others of its Faculty, and he therefore readily accepted the chair of Medical Chemistry and Toxicology in Jefferson, which then was made vacant by the resignation of Professor Rand. At this time Rogers was sixty-four years old, yet in the vigor of physical manhood and with mental faculties undisturbed by the arduous work of years. He was identified with the life of Jefferson several years, and was a popular teacher, loved and honored by his students, and esteemed by his colleagues of the Faculty. He was known by his works, his strict integrity of character, and his ever courteous, gentle manners. He died in 1884, the year after he was honored by Dickinson College with the

degree of LL. D. His vacant chair was next filled by J. W. Mallet, M. D., LL. D., F. R. S.

Like his distinguished father, the younger Gross was graduated by Jefferson, class of '57, just twenty-seven years after the elder Gross had left the school to begin his active career. But in many respects the youths of these two great teachers were radically different; the elder Gross, when he first took up the study of medicine, found himself lamentably deficient in education in the elementary branches, and it devolved upon him to lay the foundation of his own knowledge. The son, when he began the study of medicine, was fresh from the college course, having been educated at Shelby College, Kentucky. Samuel D. Gross, the father, had been a medical pupil under the preceptorship of George McClellan, and in 1828 was graduated from the College which he founded hardly more than three years before; Samuel W. Gross began his medical studies under his own father, continued them in the Medical Department of the University of Louisville, and finished them at Jefferson.

After leaving college, Dr. Gross spent some time in medical study in Europe, and when he returned he began the battle of life in active practice, but soon found himself in an editorial capacity in the office of the "North American Medico-Chirurgical Review," which his father had founded. But the duties of editorship he soon laid aside and took up another and, to him,—and to his country,—a far more important work. In 1861 he entered the service as Brigade Surgeon, United States Volunteers, and was Medical Director of the Fifth Division, Army of the Ohio, until the summer of 1862. His subsequent services were largely in connection with hospital duty, in New York harbor until the summer of 1863, then in South Carolina and Florida, another year, carrying on an excellent work through all seasons, organizing hospital departments and furnishing them with sufficient surgical corps.

In 1864 Dr. Gross was assigned to duty in Haddington Hospital in Philadelphia, where he was placed in charge, and where in recognition of



Dr. Samuel W. Gross.

(From painting in Library of Jefferson Medical College. By G. W. Pettit, 1890.)

his services he was brevetted lieutenant-colonel. At the end of the war he returned to his practice, having profited by his army and hospital experience, and soon came to be recognized as one of the brightest young medical men in Philadelphia. In 1869 he came into the life of the Jefferson Medical College, first in the capacity of lecturer in the Summer Course, which had been started the year before. On the list his name followed that of Keen, and his other associates of the "little Faculty" were Da Costa, W. H. Pancoast, Brinton, Levis and Maury—seven in all, each of them just beginning his career as teacher; and of the number five were ultimately advanced to regular Professorships, but of them only one name, that of Keen, still remains on the College rolls.

From 1869 to 1882 Gross was associated with the corps of instructors in this school, and in connection with his duties in the College he combined those of active practice and medical writing, both as contributor and author. He was a prolific writer, more so perhaps than his father, but the time of the latter was largely occupied with more profitable professional employments. The son's works were written while he was in practice, when he was able to indulge his literary tastes, while with his father it was very different. But in much of the son's writings the father had a share. His own chief works were "Tumors of the Mammary Gland," 1880, and "Diseases of the Male Sexual Organs," 1881, which attracted much favorable comment and became standard with the profession.

In 1882 Samuel D. Gross resigned the active duties of the chair of Surgery, and accepted an Emeritus Professorship. The work of the chair was then divided, and the younger Gross was appointed to the regular Faculty, taking the Professorship of Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, while the chair of Practice of Surgery and Clinical Surgery was assigned to Dr. Brinton. As an incumbent of one of the most important Faculty chairs in Jefferson, Professor Gross acquitted himself with much credit, sustaining the reputation it had gained under the teachings of his distinguished father. He was indeed a model teacher; his style was clear, logical, and

his words were always to the point, reaching to the very bottom of every subject he touched upon. The "Medical News" mentioned him as a "learned surgeon, deeply versed not only in the medical literature of his own language, but also in that of Germany and France."

In alluding to his qualities and professional skill, Dr. Henry's work says of Gross, "as an operator he was bold and self-reliant, and systematic in the highest degree. * * * He was fertile of resources, undaunted and well able to meet and deal with the contingencies of operative surgery. His operations were well done to the end." As a lecturer he was eloquent, earnest, and enthusiastic, and possessed the fortunate power of readily imparting his own knowledge to others.

Samuel W. Gross was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1837, and he died in Philadelphia in 1889. He was identified with the history of Jefferson for twenty years—1869-1889. His successor in the chair of Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery was William W. Keen, its present incumbent.

Parvin.—In 1883 the chair of Obstetrics, made vacant by the resignation of Wallace, was filled by the appointment of Theophilus Parvin, M. D., LL.D., an obstetrician of wide repute and a gynecologist of distinguished prominence. At the time he was called to a Professorship in Jefferson, Dr. Parvin was a resident of Indianapolis, and was well known in all medical educational circles, especially in the states west of Ohio.

Dr. Parvin was born in Buenos Ayres, January 9, 1829, but was of distinctively American parentage, his father, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, then being a temporary resident in that South American country. The son was educated chiefly in LaFayette College, in the University of Indiana, and afterward (1852) received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. His subsequent career for several years belonged to the west and southwest, and in that field he earned a high standing in professional circles. In 1864 he was elected to the chair of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Medical College of Ohio, and afterward held the Professorship of Medical and Surgical Diseases of Women in

the same institution. For fourteen consecutive years he held chairs in the University of Louisville, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Indianapolis, and the Medical College of Indiana, after the merger with the school last mentioned. In 1882 he returned to the University of Louisville, but in 1883 he accepted the chair of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the Jefferson Medical College.

From the time he came into the Faculty of this school until his death, Professor Parvin was looked upon as one of its best medical instructors, and in Philadelphia, always a seat of medical learning, he was regarded as one of the greatest gynecologists of his day. His death, during the session of 1897-98, was a serious loss to the school, and was especially felt in Faculty circles, and also in the many important medical organizations of which he was a member. The chair made vacant by his death was filled by giving to the Clinical Professor, E. P. Davis, the title of Professor of Obstetrics, with a seat in the Faculty.